

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were examined in the outstanding office action mailed on 05/02/2006 (hereafter "Outstanding Office Action"). Applicants note with appreciation that claims 2-9, 11-17, 19-22 and 24-30 were indicated to be allowable. Independent claims 1, 10, 18 and 23 were rejected.

By virtue of this response, claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, 18, 20, 23 and 28 are sought to be amended, and claims 2, 11 and 19 are sought to be canceled. The amendments and cancellations are believed not to introduce new subject matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. The amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-18, 20-30 are thus respectfully presented for reconsideration.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Independent claims 1, 10, 18, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Number 6,711,167 issued to Ikeda *et al* (hereinafter Ikeda) in view of US Patent number 6,826,184 issued to Bryenton *et al* (hereinafter Bryenton). The rejections are rendered moot in view of the foregoing amendments, as explained below.

Independent claim 1 is sought to be amended to include elements of previously allowed claim 2, and is thus believed to be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 3-9 and 28-30 are allowable at least as depending from allowable base claim 1.

Independent claim 10 is sought to be amended to include elements of previously allowed claim 11, and is thus believed to be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 12-17 are allowable at least as depending from allowable base claim 10.

Independent claim 18 is sought to be amended to include elements of previously allowed claim 19, and is thus believed to be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 20-22 are allowable at least as depending from an allowable base claim.

Independent claim 23 is sought to be amended to include, "a forwarding block

determining that said subset of layer-3 datagrams are to be transmitted on said layer-3 route based on a destination address contained in each of said plurality of layer-3 datagrams, wherein said VC determination block determines the specific virtual circuit on which to forward each of said subset of layer-3 datagrams after said forwarding block determines that said subset of layer-3 datagrams are to be transmitted on said layer-3 router", and is believed to be allowable over the art of record. Dependent claims 24-27 are allowable at least as depending from allowable base claim 23.

Thus, all the objections and rejections are believed to be overcome, and the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that this application be passed to issuance as a patent.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at 707.356.4172 if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

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Signature

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